ISSUE 28 September 2002

Leys News

BLITZ
blackbird leys information technology zone

BLITZ
LAUNCH EVENT
SATURDAY 28
SEPTEMBER

IT HUB
BLACKBIRD LEYS
COMMUNITY
CENTRE

SEE PAGE 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Fry's Hill Sports Park
Summer fun
Leys Links
Spot the difference
Day in the Life of Brian

THE FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR ALL OF THE LEYS

contents

3 Blitz - the IT news
4 Letters
5 Volunteers
6 Longlands/youth art
7 Life of Brian
8 & 9 Youth photo feature
10 Peep
11 Greenfingers in bloom
12 ACCAN/ Black history
13 Leys Linx
14 Advertisement
15 Useful numbers
16 Fry's Hill sports park

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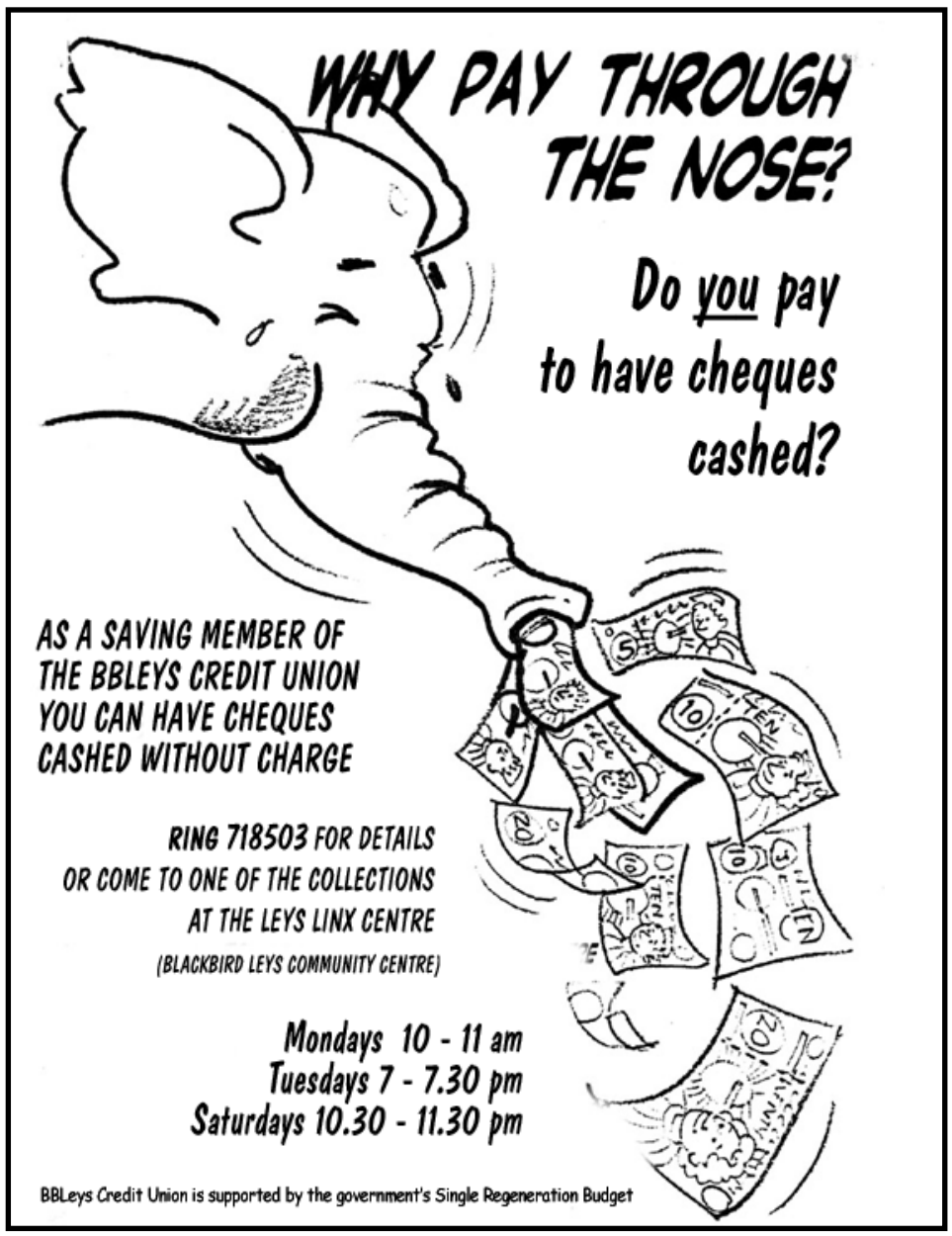

New worker joins the news

Local artist Jo Stannard has recently been appointed to the new administration and support post at *Leys News.* The post has been funded through a grant from the Oxfordshire Community Foundation and will help *Leys News* to develop into a monthly paper. Jo will be concentrating on the office sytems and advertising. A big welcome to Jo, who previously volunteered at the paper.

Leys News AGM Thursday 24 October at 7pm

The Annual General Meeting of Leys News Limited will be held at the Leys Linx shopfront at 7pm on Thursday 24 October. All are welcome to attend. People can join Leys News as a member for just a pound and find out how they can become involved. Refreshments provided. Come and meet the team and find out about upcoming developments.

New arrival

A message from the editorial committee. Congratulations to our development worker Al and his partner Helen on the birth of their daughter Anna, who is now four months old.

Leys Residents Association

Open to all residents in the new part of Blackbird Leys. Contact via 26 Kingfisher Green 749876. Monthly meetings second Tuesday each month at the Clockhouse. Michael Briggs-Simmons has recently resigned as secretary for personal reasons.

News from the Saturday School

BLACKBIRD Leys Saturday School recently celebrated another successful year with an award and presentation ceremony in July attended by students, parents and grandparents. This included poetry, drumming, Caribbean folk songs, a black history quiz and artwork on display. The Saturday School caters for children of all races with a particular focus on African and Caribbean culture and goes from pre school all the way up to GCSE. The school is based at Wesley Green School and meets on Saturdays from 10 to 1pm.
The school has recently joined up with the BLITZ project, (bringing computers into the community) and has acquired new IT equipment to help students in their studies. The school recently took a coach load of parents and children on a day trip to Alton Towers in the summer. The new term starts on September 14 and anyone interested can call 770762 to find out more and get a registration form.

Street drinking ban on the cards

The Top Shops and the surrounding area is likely to receive a street drinking banning order by the end of the year. Oxford City Council who are working with local traders and the police look set to impose the ban, which will prohibit the consumption of alcohol in public. The police will have powers to move people on and confiscate liquor, refusal to comply could lead to a £500 fine. The council will be consulting widely on the exact areas to be affected by the ban.

CDI AGM coming up

The Leys Community Development Initiative (CDI) will be holding its AGM at 6.30pm on Monday 28 October at the Leys Linx Centre on Blackbird Leys Road. Refreshments provided. All are welcome to attend. Come and find out more what the CDI does on the Leys.

Local bands feature at Leys Fair

Oxford's best known reggae band Makating will be the main attraction at this year's Leys Fair on Saturday 14 September which will be at Blackbird Leys Park from12 to 5 and at the community centre in the evening. Music will also be coming from rock group Nation, local dj's and other musical talent on the day. There'll be lots of children's activities including Hebborn's funfair, circus skills workshops, a youth football tournament and a fancy dress competition.
Community stalls will be displaying their wares outside the Leisure Centre and inside there will be many sports activities from rowing to basketball to karate demonstrations. In the evening the action moves to Blackbird Leys Community Centre where there will be a junior's disco in the youth centre from 6.30 to 9 and in the main bar there will be a family disco from 7.30 til late.
Great prizes will be won at the grand raffle draw at 10pm. Outside the centre an Aunt Sally competition is being organised. Come and enjoy the day there'll be something for everyone.

The next issue of Leys News will becoming out at the beginning of December.
Ad and copy deadline Monday 11 November.

BLITZED OUT!

NEW CENTRE'S PROMISE. FREE COMPUTER ACCESS FOR ALL! WELCOME TO THE E-COMMUNITY!

THE new computer centres are the result of the Blackbird Leys Information Technology Zone Partnership, now known as 'BLITZ'. This is your one-stop-shop for all computer matters. The main centre at the Blackbird Leys Youth and Community Centre is operated as a drop-in-centre, which means people can visit any time and someone will be there to assist you. The only commitment you need to make is to come along and be willing to have a go.

What can the centres do for me?

I have never used a computer. Can I come to the centre? ….....YES!

I work with computers but would like to improve. Can I?..... YES!

I only want to play games. Can I come to the centre?….....YES!

I would like to learn word processing. Can I…….....YES!

I have done a bit with Word but would like to learn Excel and Access…. Can I learn at the centre?…….....YES!

I am thinking of going into IT. Can you help?…….....YES!

Can I get into the Internet?…….....YES!

Can I checkout ring tones for my mobile-phone?……..... YES!

Can I do my homework in the centre?..YES!

So, do I have to join and how much will it cost?….. You don't have to join and it's FREE. Yes that's FREE!!!!!

The most important thing is not to regard age or experience as a barrier to taking that first step into the world of computers. One of the most frequent users of the centre is a 95 year old young lady, who has been using the centre from the time it opened to write her letters and e-mails. The youngest user is about seven years old.

The computer centre's outreach worker Sasha Vanderhyde told *Leys News* that the centre will soon be running several 'Taster Sessions' on subjects such as word processing, spreadsheets, presentations and publishing. Packages such as Photoshop, Visual Basic, Flash MX, typing tutors and the computer driving test preparation will also be available.

Daniel Barrett the technical specialist has suggested that he run an IT workshop for those people with some IT skills who are looking to improve them, as well as for total beginners. He plans to run this on a Saturday morning. He sees the possibility of those participating setting up Windows 2000 and Windows Xp workstations, Windows 2K servers, exchange servers, SMS servers and maybe a little Novell NetWare thrown in for good measures. Others can also learn to install Microsoft Office products, set-up internet and e-mail accounts and more.

Centre manager Rick Russell told *Leys News* that though the centre has only been in operation since 15th July, he is already seeing many positive and encouraging pointers for the future. The centre has already proved invaluable helping the organisers of the Leys Summer Youth Project, giving them an additional resource which proved extremely popular with the young-people. It also played an important part in the Multicultural day on 17 August, hosting very successful 'Half Life' computer games tournaments.

Rick also observed that the centre is the culmination of a great deal of hard work and preparation by many individuals and groups. *"I feel very fortunate to be here representing the centre"* he said, *"and am very lucky in that I have a superb team working with me. People need to tell us their needs so we can try to help".*

The challenge now is to get residents of all abilities to visit the centre, have a look around and discuss how the centre can benefit them and the community. To get a better idea of what is possible people should come along to the official launch on 28th September where staff will be available to speak to and there's a chance to become part of a giant face map of Blackbird Leys, which will be started on the day.

All are invited welcome to the official launch of BLITZ on

Saturday 28th September 11-2pm

at the IT Hub Blackbird Leys Community Centre

opening hours
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10 to 5

Tuesdays, Thursdays 10 to 6.30

Saturdays 9.30 to 1.30

phone 07736 462312

The BLITZ partnership comprises of the ABLE centre, Shepherds Hill Pre-School, Leys Residents Association, Oxford Community Education Group, Leys News, Dovecote Voluntary Parents Committee, Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre, Blackbird Leys Youth Centre, Blackbird Leys Pre-School, Blackbird Leys Community Association, Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground, Blackbird Leys Saturday School, Blackbird Leys Community Development Initiative, the Barn Youth Group, ACCAN and the Clockhouse Age Resource Desk.

Blitz is funded by a partnership between the New Opportunities Fund, UK online and Oxfordshire County Council

Youth mentoring appeal

Will Roberts, pictured above, at the multicultural day held in August at the Blackbird Leys community centre making a pitch to people to have a think about volunteering to become youth mentors. Will is himself a part time youth worker based at Rose Hill. Mentors can help young people make the right choices and can gain qualifications too. Mentors from black and ethnic minorities are particularly needed to join the M-One scheme.
Call the Oxfordshire Youth Mentoring scheme on 848181 or email ***maxine.dancy@btinternet.com*** to find out more.

Biscuit time

THE BISCUIT KIDS: from left. Jordan Blackstock, Josh Letger, Ellia Townsend, Nicky Orsborn (Nash's manager) and Daniel Orsborn-Edwards.

Nash's Bakery invited local children to come in and decorate biscuits in the shop. Many took advantage and came up with the colourful selection above. The eventual prize winner was Tom Reeves age six. Look out for more fun around Halloween.

Star volunteer

Volunteer Victor Stapleton, pictured right, who helps out at the Edge, drop in for young people at the community centre on Wednesday afternoons. Congratulations to Victor who has recently completed his foundation course NVQ level 2 in youth work over 30 hours.

Women, would you like to train to be an

ICT Technician?

Are you interested in learning more about the technical aspects of computing? Would you like to work as a technician, perhaps in a school/college or hospital. There are many part time opportunities in this field

We can offer training in:

- **Hardware and software installation**
- **Troubleshooting**
- **Network maintenance**

Also there are still some places on

Computing courses from basic to advanced Construction Skills (Painting and Decorating, Woodwork, Plumbing, Tiling, Plastering etc)

FREE training with childcare (crèche) and travel expenses. Starts September 2002

Contact 741317

Oxford Women's Training Scheme, Northway Centre, Maltfield Road, Oxford OX3 9RF

Funded by the European Social Fund, the Learning and Skills Council, the Home Office, Oxford City Council

Letters page

Life threatening

or a threat to my way of life?

Dear ***Leys News,***

We read a lot in the papers about cuts to services, about making shrinking services stretch to encompass a multitude of people in need but what can this mean in reality? What this means is that I can only get the most basic of help, that of someone helping with personal care and microwaving a pre-packaged meal because only the loss of being clean or fed are considered life threatening. But what about the quality of that life?

I have been a user of Social Services care support for the last six years and throughout that time, year after year, assessment after assessment, I have been told how lucky I am to have the level of support that I do. I am lucky to have three and a half hours of care support each day and some extra time to do my weekly shop. Well, now I am being told that my luck has run out. How would you feel if you were told that there was no more time available for shopping, someone to do my cleaning, cook me a fresh, healthy meal every day, eating only pre-packaged food for the rest of my life? Would you feel cheated, disappointed, scared and angry? Well I do. My very independence, my own freedom of choice, my support systems are being eroded as I sit here writing this article.

What can I do about this? I must start to learn to live with the loss of nine hours care support time each week and how to manage to fit all the help required in order for me to live a full and independent life. All those tasks people do everyday of their life, doing the laundry, getting dressed, filing bills, or cleaning the shower into just two and a half hours per day?
I certainly don't feel very lucky, in fact I feel threatened that the next time Oxfordshire County Council needs to save some money they may think that having a shower every day isn't important, or maybe helping with the laundry will be considered a luxury that I can no longer have? Could you live like this, would you like someone to come to your house and tell you to organise every part of your life to fit into a 2 1/2 hour slot? No, I didn't think so! I have a physical disability that means I find it impossible to do many day to day tasks and I do not have to exaggerate my condition in order to qualify for this help but now, six years down the line, and a nine million pounds deficit, I am having to explain in the smallest of detail what help I need every single day, minute by minute.

I pay as much as I can toward the cost of my care, I volunteer at a local charity in order to serve the community as much as I am able, I live a full and independent life which completely depends upon my receiving the type of care I need in order to help overcome my physical difficulties. By having this care support removed I am once again dependent upon the good will of others to help me when they can, not because it is part of an agreed care package but because they are being kind to me. So much for the Disability Discrimination Act and the human rights of the individual. The next multi-million pound deficit that comes along might cut other services, essential to more than just this one minority. Bear that in mind the next time you read about 'the cuts' at Social Services.

Louise Ballinger, local resident

Stadium shortfalls

Further to our article back in the Spring concerning the Kassam Stadium parking situation we received this view from local resident and parish councillor Brian Lester,

Dear Editor,

We're in the football season again, and residents are still without the promised traffic regulations for match days. Our streets are full of supporters' cars - something that we were promised would not happen. I'm not blaming the supporters; the blame lands firmly on the shoulders of the council and its officers for not acting professionally, and Firoz Kassam who doesn't seem to want to spend any more money than he has to. The Department of Transport have now accepted a trial plan and in August the Area Committee meeting heard that the County Council are moving towards implementing it.

There are several outstanding questions which perhaps someone from the Council can answer?
Why was the stadium allowed to open with a shortfall of 500-700 parking places? (There is plenty of room left to put tarmac on the surrounding fields.) Why haven't the footways and cycle tracks been constructed yet? Is it true that when the hotel opens customers will have to share the parking with fans? Why aren't the trees and shrubs to screen noise and light from the surrounding areas planted and growing yet? When the football was in Headington the police closed surrounding streets to non-residents cars, why don't-they do that here? - but of course we know why, that was Headington. When are the people of this area going to get the truth? It must be out there somewhere.

Brian Lester

Leys News will be watching this situation. Any other comments or views please send them in.

G.A.N.E

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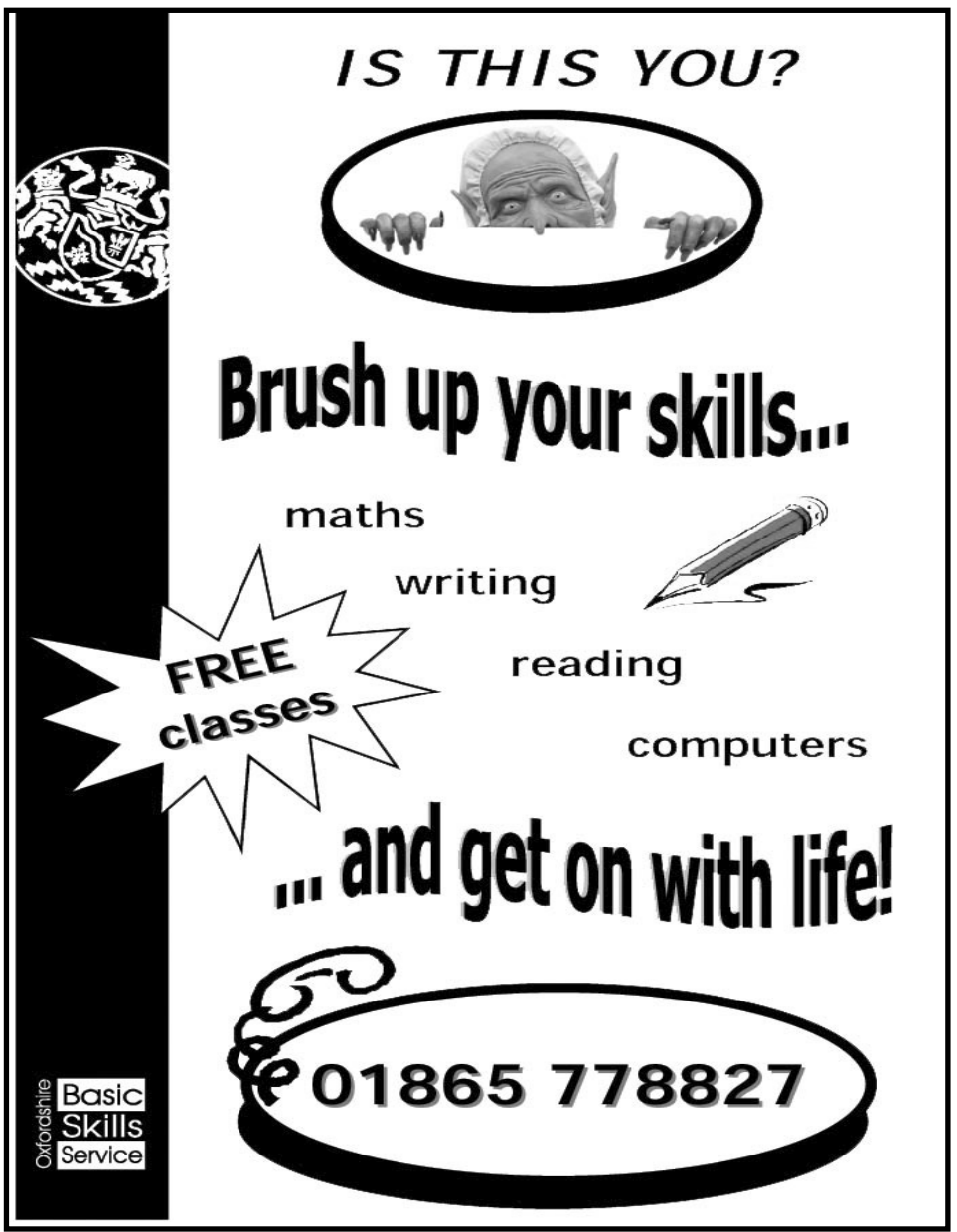

ACCAN DO IT

The African Caribbean Community Action Network (ACCAN) has recently moved into a new premises in East Oxford. It's at the East Oxford games hall in Collins Street, (behind Tesco's on Cowley Road), is now the headquarters of this city wide organisation. The group has redecorated the offices and made a safe, friendly work area upstairs in the hall. One of ACCAN's chief aims is to realise the thirty year struggle for a community centre for Oxford's African and Caribbean communities. In the meantime the organisation has found a home and a place for meetings and a chance to learn and develop IT skills. Co-chair Cora Spencer said "***We've come a long way, but still have a lot more to do. The light at the end of the tunnel is brighter now that ACCAN has achieved this. Here is a great opportunity to build a platform to continue to pressure for a centre.***"

Through being a member of the Blackbird Leys IT Zone (BLITZ) - (see page 3) ACCAN now has some new computer equipment and will be unrolling a programme of taster sessions and internet access in the autumn. This is an exciting opportunity for ACCAN members and others to get new skills, to meet people and to help others learn. There will be no charge to use the IT equipment, but users will be asked to pay for such things as floppy disks, cd's and printing.
To find out more about the IT and computing side of things people should contact Pearline Blackstock at the Unity Project on 722999. Volunteer trainees with diverse IT skills are also welcome.

The games hall area downstairs offers regular sessions in tae kwondo on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8. Capoeira dance on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 9pm and badminton for the over 50's on Mondays and Wednesday mornings from 10 to 12. For further information about these and other sports activities people should get in touch with Clive Calliss at the hall on 0778 6266146 between 9.30am and 5.30pm or on 467050 in the evenings.

Black history month events

Who was born in St Ann's Bay, Jamaica, on August 17 1887, and later became Jamaica's first national hero? ***Answer at end of article.***
October sees Oxford host a month of events to celebrate the annualblack history month. Highlights of the month include a video/film two day event, an 'Africa Calling' conference in West Oxford, events in five schools in Oxfordshire, a gospel concert and the main event which is an ACCAN black awards dinner and dance night for the African Caribbean community and friends.

Diary of events

Monday & Tuesday 7/8 October 7pm
Black video/film days at Blackbird Leys Community Centre bar.
Free. Refreshments.

Thursday 10 October 11 - 5pm
Conference - Africa Calling
West Oxford Community Centre
Workshops and seminars.
Caribbean food available.
Contact Robert Evans on 864717.

Saturday 19 October 6pm
Gospel concert
Oxford School, Glanville Road
Presented by The New Testament Church of God to raise funds for church building.
Tickets £5 for adults in advance, £6 on the night and £2.50 for children.
Available by calling 741943.

Saturday 26 October from 7.30 until late
Blackbird Leys Community Centre.
ACCAN presents their awards night for black achievers.Dinner and dance for the African Caribbean community and friends. Tickets £10 in advance available from Robert Evans on 077866 27588

Local black history exhibition on tour
Details available from Dolcie Obhiozele on 778250.

Answer from top: Marcus Mosiah Garvey

Flexible connection

The Connection team assist people who are struggling with living on their own. They are based in the Leys, and cover the whole city. The workers see people one-to-one in their homes, at times which suit them. They support a wide range of people (without dependent children), who often have emotional and psychological problems. Irene of Connection told Leys News that homelessness and mental health problems often go together, and it can be difficult to see which came first. "***We have a focus on housing and helping vulnerable people maintain their tenancies,***" she said.

When they meet someone they make a plan with them, looking at what they need. They help people to put their decisions into practise, build confidence and skills, and stay motivated. Bill is elderly and has long-term depression, anxiety and alcohol problems. He says "***Connection have done so much for me, I really appreciate it, particularly at the time, when no one else wanted to help me.***" Connection helped him apply for the benefits he is entitled to and made sure he has home care and regular appointments with his GP. He is now much less depressed, more confident, less isolated and able to socialise more. Connection can help people with budgeting, cooking, cleaning and finding leisure activities or work. Others mainly need someone friendly to talk to, "***someone who is going to accept them as they are***" says Irene.

Connection is based at the Pathway Building on Dunnock Way. 711267

Women of Colour

Oxfordshire Mind has a new service especially for women from an ethnic minority or of mixed parentage. "Women of Colour" was launched on August 16, to provide emotional support for women experiencing any form of mental illness, emotional distress or isolation. Assistance with childcare is available, as is support in Urdu and Punjabi. There is no need to be referred, and the space is for women only.

Contact the group at
The Mill, 46 Cowley Road, Oxford.
Fridays 10 - 2. Phone Farah Zeb or Beth Brown Reid on 716633

Holy Family upcoming services

September
Sunday 15 - 10am Moravian liturgy led by Revd David Newman, general secretary of the Moravian Church. This will be followed by a bring and share lunch.
Sunday 22 - 10am Harvest Festival; gifts of produce are warmly welcome, these will benefit a local charity.
Sunday 29 - 10am service with Eucharist and baptism.

October
Sunday 6 - 10am service with Eucharist.
Sunday 13 - 10am service with Eucharist.
Sunday 20 - 10am service with Eucharist.
Sunday 27 - 10 am service with Eucharist. and baptism.

November
Sunday 3 - 10am service with Eucharist
4 pm short service of thanksgiving and commemoration.
If you would like to commemorate someone you love who has died, we hope you will come to this special service.
Sunday 10 - 10 am service for Remembrance Sunday.
Sunday 17 - 10am service with Eucharist and baptism.
Sunday 24 - 10am service with Eucharist
Sunday 25 - 6.30 pm service to mark the international day against violence to women.

Every Tuesday at 9am the church is open to all for prayers.

All welcome

Church of God Assembly

The church meets every Sunday at the Holy Family Church.
Sunday School 12 - 1pm
Service 1 - 2.30pm.

To find out more about the church call Mrs MacFarlane on 07961 037728.

Long distance calling

Leys News recently received this e-mail from a female visitor to its website. "Hello, I am a fellow Brit, living in the USA. I went to Rose Hill primary school from 1950 to 54 and to Northfield secondary modern from 54 through to 58. I would love to get in touch with anyone who attended during that time. My last teacher there was Mrs Church. If anyone would like to email me, my address is kindheartedbrit@aol.com best regards." ***Does this ring a bell with anyone?***

The Dovecote
After School Club
runs from
3.15 - 4.45
Monday to Thursday
and the
Saturday Club
in term time only

COMMUNITY FUND
lottery money making a difference

ring Carol on 712299

It's only Rock 'n Roll

Residents from Longlands Home in Balfour Road participated in an arts project recently. It was set up by the charity Ithaca, who aim to improve the lives of older people by giving them the opportunity to take part in something creative.

Memories from the 1950's set the theme, a time when Britain saw the Coronation, the heyday of Ealing Comedy and winkle pickers and drain pipes were in fashion. Dancer Cecilia Macfarlane and musician Janet Stansfelt worked with Longlands residents for ten weeks exploring their reminiscences. Next, Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company developed a performance, "It's only Rock n' Roll", which incorporated a lot of their stories. This show toured over 50 day centres and care homes.

During the summer more Longlands residents worked with artist Lisa Gibbs. Lisa brought in sparkly fabrics to root around in, a 1950's wedding dress, an old vogue book, handbags, even clothes to try on and music to sing along to. These evoked memories, and they talked about what it was like getting dressed up to go out, what they wore, and what it meant to be in love then. Many gorgeous images were produced in paint, collage and silk painting. As our picture shows the work is colourful and bold. Some of it will be exhibited at The Ark T Centre, Crowell Road, Cowley from 16th - 27th September. Lisa said "It's been so much fun. It's been a privilege to meet so many lovely people".

Self portraits

Young people from Blackbird Leys showed off their artwork in a special show in early July at the youth centre. Giant posters were printed (pictured left)and sold on the day. Much of the work was created during the Thursday evening art sessions at the youth centre.

The self portraits were inspired by Warhol's work and created from a photo and transferred to acetate. James Celliers one of the young artists said *"It's a friendly place."*

Copies of exhibition posters are available from Katy Hamilton at the Youth Centre.

Photograph from multicultural day at the Community Centre where there was live music outside, many activities for children, games in the IT hub, art and music sessions in the youth centre and a disco in the evening.

Access to Higher Education

Have you always wanted to go to University?

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Focus on PEEP

The time at which children are learning most things, at the fastest rate, is not actually when they start school, but long before they get there. And the fastest rate of brain development is in a baby's first year. The every day things -interaction and play - which families are involved in at home supports this development.

PEEP is a project which offers all families with babies and young children in the Leys, Rose Hill and Littlemore ideas and activities to support very young children's learning so that when their child gets to school they will have a really flying start.

Families can have their free PEEP Learning Together materials - videos, song tapes and packs delivered at home or they can come to a local weekly group to try out different activities and share ideas. Each session is different and the groups are great fun. You can also do PEEP at your child's nursery or playgroup. There are lots of books and activity packs to borrow.
You can join a PEEP group at any point until your child is five.

Baby Sanna enjoying a book

PEEP Local Training

Do you want to know more about PEEP and the ideas behind it?
Then why not attend the next PEEP local training. It will be running during the autumn term on Tuesday evenings from 7 - 9.30pm, for 8 weeks commencing Tuesday 8 October.

Find out more about the thinking behind PEEP. Topics include: Explaining PEEP, Self-esteem and Early Learning, Families and Play and Learning in PEEP. For parents, carers and providers interested in birth-to-school home learning, living in the PEEP area (includes Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys).
Open College Network accredited.
For more information contact
Marie at the PEEP Centre on 395145.

Newsletter

Four PEEP parents have begun learning Publisher with a view to producing the next PEEP Newsletter. The course tutor Beverly Barrett at EASOCEC is very excited and keen for more parents to join the group. People might want to join the IT class, and be involved in publishing, or they could help out with distribution, or they might want to be involved with thinking about stories or items for the Newsletter. Please contact Beverly on 747870 at EASOCEC or Marie Sellwood on 395145 at the PEEP Centre if you would like to be involved. The course starts again in the Autumn term on Tuesdays 9.30am - 11.30am, on 10 September. There are some creche places available.

Areas and Times of PEEP Groups – Autumn 2002

AREA	Babies (Age 0-1)	Ones	Twos	Foundation (Age 3 & 4)	Nursery PEEP (Age 3 & 4)
Blackbird Leys	Tue 9:30 Health Ctr Wed 9:45 Jubilee Hall	Tue 11:15 Health Ctr	Mon 9:45 HFC Hall	Thur 9:45 HFC Hall	Wed - Orchard Meadow Thur - Pegasus
Greater Leys	Tue 1:30 Clock Hse Thur 1:30 Dovecote	Thur 11:00 Clock Hse	Tue 1:30 Dovecote		Thur - Windale
Rose Hill	Wed 10:30 Family Centre	Tue 10:00 RH First School	Thur 10:00 RH First School	Mon 1:30 Family Centre	Tue - Rosehill
Littlemore	Wed 9:45 St N Thur 9:30 PEEP Cabins	Wed 9:30 Peep Cabins Wed 1:30 EASOCEC	Tue 9:30 St N Wed 11:00 Peep Cabins	Tue 1:30 LCC Wed 1:30 LCC	Wed - Speedwell Fri - St John Fisher

Clock Hse = Clockhouse HFC Hall = Holy Family Church Hall
St N = St Nicholas House EASOCEC = Community Ed Centre, Peers Campus LCC = Littlemore Community Centre

What is the Working Families Tax Credit?
A tax credit payable to working families, either couples or single parents, who
- Have one or more children,
- Work at least 16 hours per week - whether as an employee or as a self-employed person,
- Are resident in the United Kingdom, and are entitled to work here,
- Do not have more that £8,000 in savings.

Childcare Tax Credit

What is the Childcare Tax Credit?
Childcare Tax Credit was introduced in October 1999 as part of Working Families' Tax Credit and Disabled Person's Tax Credit. The Government described it as a key part of the National Childcare Strategy, and it was widely welcomed as a means of helping low and middle-income families with the cost of childcare.
How much can I get?

The Childcare Tax Credit is worth 70% of eligible childcare costs. This is worth a maximum of £94.50 a week for families with childcare costs for one child and £140 a week for families with two or more children.
Using the latest Inland Revenue statistics, the average Childcare Tax Credit weekly award is £46.00.

You can get more advice and information by phoning the Tax Credit Helpline on 0845 609 5000 or Textphone 0845 606 6668 (local rates).

The lines are open from:
7.30 am to 8 pm Monday to Thursday,
7.30 am to 7pm Friday
10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday.
Application forms are available from the Benefits Agency, Job Centre, Citizen Advice Bureau and from WFTC helpline.

Golden Circle club

The club meets on Thursdays from 1.30 to 3.30 at Blackbird Leys Community Centre for local residents 60 years and over. These are social afternoons with bingo, games, outings, tea and biscuits. Come and meet new friends, you'll be made very welcome. Drop by on a Thursday or give us a call on 435954 if you like.

Blackbird Bonanza

Are you a member?
Come and see us at
Leys Fair on
Saturday 14th September

SPECIAL LEYS FAIR OFFER
Pay for 4 weeks in advance
and receive a FREE bonus ticket
for 4 weeks

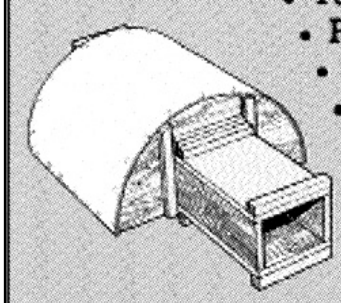
(This offer is only available on 14/9/02)

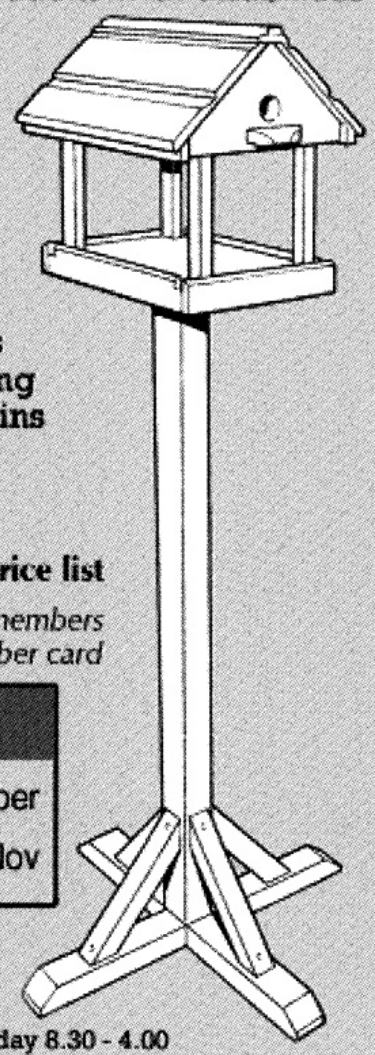
Also we have a tombola stall
anda children's balloon race
with the chance of winning a
£25.00 Gift Voucher

Pathway Workshop

Providing paid employment for adults with disabilities
Reg Charity No 1014416

QUALITY GARDEN PRODUCTS
FROM SELECTED RECLAIMED TIMBER





- Tubs & troughs
- Picnic benches
- Park benches
- Trellis arches
- Trellis fencing
- Compost bins
- Wildlife

Tel: 714111 - for brochure and price list

5% discount for all Bonanza members on production of their lucky number card

Full Display

Leys Fair Saturday 14th September
Templars Square 18th - 30th Nov

Workshop and Display open at
Dunnock Way (off Windale Avenue),
Blackbird Leys, Oxford.
Monday to Thursday 8.30 - 5.00 and Friday 8.30 - 4.00

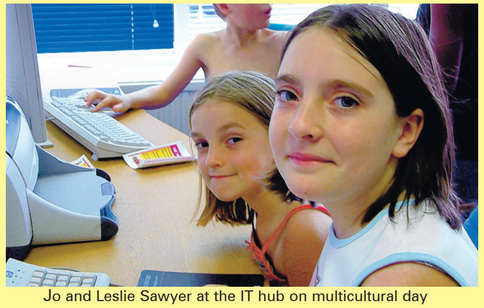
Hot fun in the summertime 2002!

Circus skills at Playday

Playday's theme was 'Take-A-Chance' and over 1000 young people attended at the Leisure centre in early August Featuring rides such as Bucking Bronco, the mechanical bull and a gladiator joust. The Strawberry majorettes gave a display. Workshops included a circus arena, african drumming, mbira (thumb piano workshop) and art.
Play development officer Joey Phillips said "Playday was a huge success. It provided the opportunity for young people to contribute to the community in a positive and constructive way." He also thanked all the staff at the Leisure Centre for their help and support.

African drumming workshop at Playday

A happy bunch at the adventure playground



Jo and Leslie Sawyer at the IT hub on multicultural day

Bucking bronco at Playday

Strawberry majorettes at Playday

Summer activities were put on by Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre, the Dovecote playscheme, Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground, the Youth Service, the CDI summer youth project, TRAX and the Sports Development team at the City Council.

The bungee run at multicultural day

Alex and James flying helicopters at Brake Hill

Declan and Lee at the IT hub on multicultural day

Three dancers at the CDI's summer youth project finale

Appreciation of young people at the CDI's summer youth project finale

Dance performance in the main bar, community centre on multicultural day

Young dj's win at the Barn

Ultimate winner of the dj competition held at the Barn on Saturday 3 August were Furocious DJ's and MC's playing a garage and jungle drum 'n' bass set, pictured below.

Coming in second were DJ's Sweet Tooth and Havoc with a ragga and garage set. In third place were MC's B & D also playing ragga and garage.
Look out for another competition in late September
Contact MIKEE on 772886 or email bbleys.youth@lineone.net for further information

A day in the Life of Brian

- tales of a community caretaker

Brian Weaver is caretaker for Ealing Family Housing Association. He works mainly in Greater Leys, but also carries out repairs to homes across the rest of Oxford.

There is no such thing as a typical day for Brian - every day is different as he responds to whatever is going on around the estate. Ruskin College student Julie Walker-Locke followed Brian around for a day while she was on placement with Ealing Family, and this is her account of his day:

9am Brian reports to The Farmhouse to find out what tasks are waiting.

9.10 am Straight out to a flat in Cowley. Brian has to fix the curtain rails and curtains up in time for a homeless family to move in tomorrow. Temporary homes for homeless people are partly furnished, while Ealing Family's other properties are unfurnished. On the way back he checks a car that looks as if it might be abandoned, but the tax is up to date, so he leaves it.

10.15 am Call in at the Clockhouse to check that everything is clean and the lights are working, before the older people's day care session starts. Then off to look at a house that has been abandoned, a garden full of rubbish and three dumped cars. He has to sort through a huge bunch of keys in order to open a bin shed and sweep it out. He always wears heavy-duty gloves when doing this kind of job, in case there are dangerous objects among the rubbish. He rings the council to report a dumped fridge, since new pollution rules mean that he's not allowed to move it himself.

As he drives around the estate children call hello to 'Mr Weaver'. Brian has lived in Blackbird Leys for 13 years and has done a lot of voluntary work for local schools and a children's football club, so he is well known.

11.30 am Every Friday Brian takes the elderly people from Potters Court to Cowley Centre for some shopping. He drives the housing associations' community minibus and helps people in and out at the other end. He leaves them shopping while he gets a few more jobs done, and collects them again after an hour.

2.30 pm Down to B&Q to buy some roller blinds and then Comet for a cooker. Pop back to fit the cooker at Potters Court (flats for over-55's) and to Honeysuckle Way to fit the blinds.

Julie says: "As you can see, Brian isn't just the caretaker, he is the odd job man as well. He seemed never to stop in the few hours that I was with him. As well as all this, he lays carpets, does minor repairs, hires out garden equipment, picks up litter, helps out with the Barn Youth Club and more. His phone seems to be going off every few minutes. He likes being busy though, and mostly enjoys the job, although it does sometimes get too much when he's called out to an alarm going off at three in the morning!" All in a day and night's work.

Brian Weaver talking to young people on the estate about the summer youth project.

Orinoco scrapstore

Orinocco Scrapstore has been rescued by Blackbird Leys Community Centre. The scrapstore recycles all kinds of safe commercial waste, from card to plastics, selling it to community projects and art groups at a minimal cost. The charity has been running for ten years. They were left in the lurch when the rent on their previous premises in Botley was increased beyond what they could afford. Orinocco have been given temporary accommodation in the Community Centre, while they look for a new home. They will run their mobile scrapstore travelling around the county from there, and will continue to recycle household paints.

Art for the community centre

A group of Blackbird Leys artists and residents are planning to transform the Blackbird Leys Community Centre with a work of art. Ideas so far include a jigsaw style mural covering the front of the building, a canopy of metal parasols in front of the building and a collage of giant fish across the wall.What do you think? Any comments? Would you like to be involved? You don't need to be an artist! Get in touch with Enid Foster at Leys Linx Centre (tel 776379 or 396392).

Blackbird Leys Credit Union Ltd

- Is looking for a responsible, confident person to monitor loans and maintain member contacts.
- 2 hours work per week (flexible) at £8 per hour. Would suit a person wishing to supplement other employment or able to work part-time while on benefits.
- You need to be good with people, reliable and able to deal with printed forms and figures.
- For more information, ring 715803 and leave your name and contact details or call in at any of our collections

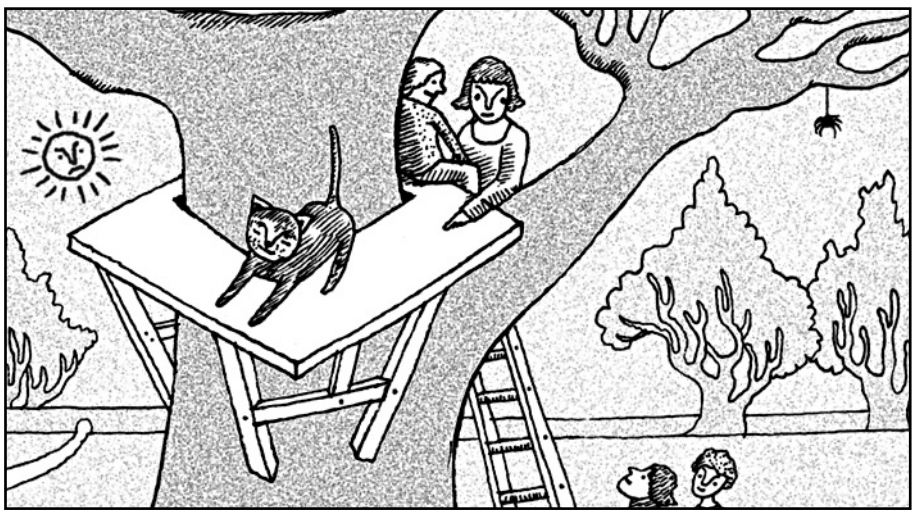
(See advertisement on page 2)

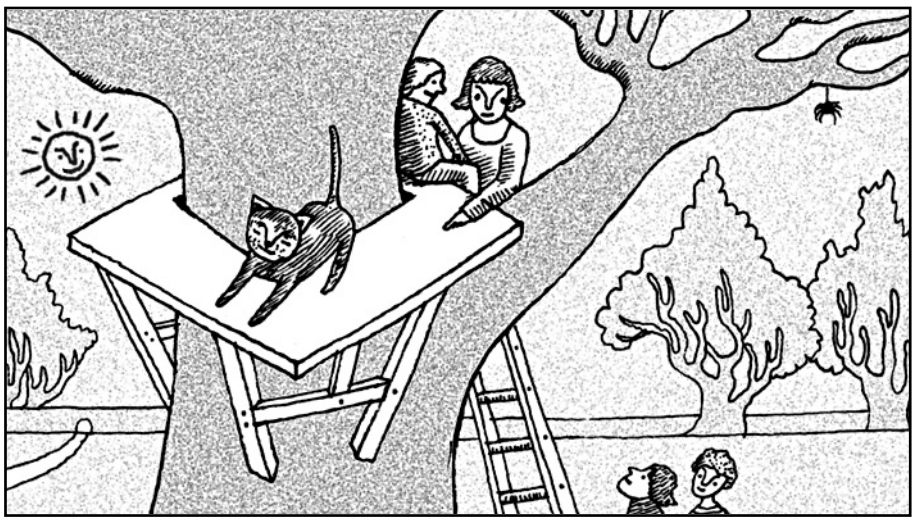
Blackbird Leys Credit Union is supported by the Government's Single Regeneration Budget through SEEDA.

Spot the difference competition

win a camera!

Have a good look at the two drawings below and you may be able to spot the differences between the two. There are seven in these illustrations by artist Julian Dourado. Circle the differences and cut out this quarter of the page, put your name and address on it and you may be the lucky winner of our 'Spot the difference' competition. The prize is a LeClic camera with film, but you must be 10 or under to enter. Send to ***Leys News, 26 Kingfisher Green, Blackbird Leys Oxford OX4 7BX.*** Good luck!





Greenfingers

ESSENTIAL TASKS
SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER

September's tasks

Assist your onions to 'colour up' quicker, as they mature, by removing rough outer layers of skin. Removed, the smoother skin underneath produces a more impressive colour when exposed to the sun. This should however, only be done days before harvesting, with only the loosest layers stripped away.

Carrots, in the 'maincrop' group, which are usually 'long rooted', but nowadays commonly include 'intermediate' types, can be lifted and stored. Lift each root carefully without causing damage or disease may get in whilst in storage. Storing in dry sand is a successful method.

In the flower garden, gladioli which have completed flowering can be lifted and tied in neat bunches, ready for hanging in a dry ventilated shed for drying. When leaves have withered they can be removed, with the bulbs stored in a dry place.

October's tasks

Bulbs for indoor displays, or 'forcing', in winter, should be planted no later than the first week of the month. Make a good open mixture of soil, leaf mould and sand to go in the pots. Ensure the chosen container is adequately drained, before half filling with the mixture. Push bulbs into this, almost cheek to cheek so they are below the top of the pot. Then dust with more mixture, pushing the mixture down between the bulbs with your fingers. Finish the pot off smoothly about½ inch below the top. Water thoroughly, and place outside on some ashes. Later, completely cover with a 10-inch layer of sieved ashes, remembering to regularly check on their development.

November's tasks

Herb beds are ready for cleaning up. Cut dead mint stalks to ground level before clearing any further debris. Try potting up some mint roots for growing inside over the winter. Thyme can also be trimmed at this point. Fruit trees can also be pruned but consider the peculiarities of each tree and prune accordingly. For instance, a vigorous tree that fruits rather poorly should not by any stretch of the imagination be pruned hard to induce fruitfulness. This will only encourage further strong growth. Tip the growths and prune lightly. In the greenhouse, keep the air dry, and don't splash the floor, staging or leaves when watering. Pots should be watered sparingly, except for those in flower.

Happy gardening, and remember to dig that soil ready for the frosts, and reap the rewards next year with finer soil.

Blackbird Leys Allotment Association has plots for rent at Kestrel Crescent. Call 434476 or 438696 to find out more

Local Oxford in Bloom winners

Congratulations to the two local winners of awards in the Oxford in Bloom competition announced in August. Pictured below is the very colourful front garden of Betty and Clive Mitchell of Windale Avenue, who won the gold award for best front garden. Pictured right is the back garden of Brian and Vanessa Lester of Pegasus Road who received a highly commended award for their first time entry in the back garden section of the competition.

EASOCEC are offering over 100 opportunities for learning in their new brochure posted through your door in August, if you live in OX4 or OX1.

Want more information about a particular course, workshop or service offered in the brochure? Phone 712094

COURSE FEES TOO EXPENSIVE?

DON'T LET THAT STOP YOU

TALK TO US!!!

EASOCEC Needs a Cleaner !

(Littlemore Office, Peers Campus)

1½ hours per day,
with the possibility of additional hours.
£5.00 per hour (pay award pending)
Phone us on 712094 for further information.

EASOCEC is an Equal Opportunities Employer

CHILDCARE COURSES

EASOCEC WILL BE OFFERING A RANGE OF CHILDCARE COURSES IN BLACKBIRD LEYS FROM SEPTEMBER.
CALL 712094 FOR MORE INFORMATION

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
LIFELONG LEARNING
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Centre seeks help

Current workers and volunteers outside the Advice Centre

This is dedicated to Agnes Smith, centre manager, who sadly passed away just before this paper went to press, - our thoughts and prayers are with her family. She will be greatly missed.
We hope to publish a fuller tribute to the memory of Agnes in the next issue.

The Blackbird Leys Advice Centre suffers an on-going battle to obtain volunteers for the reception. At the moment there is only one volunteer receptionist to help maintain the service. The advice workers and clerical worker are having to double up on the work and ensure the reception is covered to enable clients to make appointments and obtain leaflets, forms or local information as needed.

Without this very valued part of the scheme it would not be possible to maintain the standard of work required. The advice centre is in desperate need of anyone who can provide some time to maintain the reception area and undertake other duties. This will enable the advisors and clerical worker to carry out their main duties and so help them to maintain the service which has in the past been of the highest standard.

Without extra resource the centre will have to reduce the number of clients they are able to see.

The advice centre also provides outreach advice sessions as required in other parts of the local community on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

If you are bored with the same tedious routine of everyday life and would like to become a volunteer at the centre phone us on 770206 or call in at 96 Blackbird Leys Road for a chat.
The team at BLAC are always more than willing to provide a warm, friendly welcome to any new member of the team, and all are willing to offer any assistance that they can to new recruits.

Your time could enable Blackbird Leys Advice Centre to maintain the provision of service which the local community has depended on for many years.

Blackbird Leys Advice Centre
96 Blackbird Leys Road 770206
Drop in Mondays and Fridays
10 to 12.30
Appointments
Tues and Thurs 10- 1pm and 2 - 5 pm

Volunteers on offer

Brookes new volunteer centre

A brand new volunteer centre will be opening at Brookes Students Union in October. The big launch will be on Wednesday 9 October at the students union at Headington Hill Campus. At the fun day called UniFest, community groups will have the chance to come and talk to staff and students about what they are doing in the community, and recruit volunteers to support them.
Though still being developed, the centre plans to link students and staff with community projects and voluntary organisations to the benefit of all.

At the new centre the volunteer co-ordinator is Mhari-Anne Lowrie, who will be working alongside administrator Sally Mitcham, and student development officer Sue Holton. The centre will provide support in placing students and staff with interested and relevant projects and organisations, and will also assist students in setting up projects.
The main aims of the centre are to build relationships between students, staff and the local community and to make university resources more accessible locally. It also aims to build upon students and staff skills and awareness of their local community and provide people with skills and enthusiasm to local community groups.

Entertainment lined up so far includes an open Mic evening at the Apollo and a dj competition, free food, bar and an Austin Powers costume dress competition.
Any community groups out there who want to be at UniFest see below.

contact the centre via
Mhari-Anne Lowrie
on 484737 or email her at
mlowrie@brookes.ac.uk

A new beginning

The brand new Oxford Centre for Enablement opened at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre on Tuesday 3 September.
This new centre brings together under one roof the services for people with disabilities previously offered by the Rivermead rehabilitation centre and Ritchie Russell House. It will also be the new home to the Oxford wheelchair service, assistive technology such as artificial limbs, communication aids etc, the specialist disability service, Crossroads care agency and the charity FAST (Foundation for Assistive Technology). Also being housed at this new centre will be the local charity Dialability, Oxfordshire's specialist disability equipment and information advice centre.

The Centre for Enablement will allow anyone who needs these services to be able to use them all on the one site, instead of having to go around the various different places in Oxford. This should make it much easier for people who may already experience difficulty in using public transport or having to take expensive taxis from one clinic appointment to another, as well as for the patients' visitors.

For more information on what the Oxford Centre for Enablement can offer you call Oxford 227600 or check out their website on www.noc.org.uk

Blackbird Leys Credit Union Ltd

is a local voluntary organisation serving the people of Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys

Like banks, we provide a service
for saving and borrowing when you want to,
but we're volunteer led and most of the workers are volunteers.
ng for volunteers
financial service
.We need tellers,
rs and committee
e give training to
rested in helping
.
nything from two
ee hours a week?

e, whatever it is,
ery much valued.
If you're interested in helping.
Whether you're a member or not yet a member ring 718503.
Leave a message if there isn't someone there to answer your call,
or call around to one of our collections in the Leys Linx Centre
(at the Community Centre in Blackbird Leys Road)

Mondays 10 - 11am
Tuesdays 7 - 7.30pm
Saturdays 10.30 - 11.30am

The Credit Union and the Leys Linx Centre are funded by the Government's Single Regeneration Budget through SEEDA (South East England Development Agency

INTER AGENCY DAY CARE GROUP OXFORD

Registered Charity No: 1016058

We provide specialist day care
for older people with mental health problems

We are currently seeking to recruit

VOLUNTEERS

to join us at our Day Centres in Oxford area

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

to help transport clients from surrounding areas
to our Day Centres in Oxford area and Kidlington

Full training provided and expenses paid.

For further details of how you can help in this valuable work and join our staff teams in providing essential services to our clients,

Please contact: **Karen Warner on 01865 861907**

Leys Linx news from your local regeneration scheme

New skills - training for volunteers and people working in the community

Funded jointly by Leys Linx and Ruskin College, a new training course targeted at local people on the Leys who do volunteering or community work in a paid or unpaid capacity, was launched in the summer. Run by Pippa Bobbett, a community development trainer and local resident Tracey Dyer, the "participatory learning and action" training which ran from June to July, enabled seven local people to test out a range of new skills and approaches and to apply them in their work in the community.

Based on a practical "nuts and bolts" approach, the training explored the kind of skills needed to encourage people to get involved in local community initiatives and action. The training provided opportunities to try out a range of different skills like dealing with conflict in a community group, finding ways of coping with people who talk all the time and don't let others have their say, or finding ways of encouraging people to contribute who won't say anything, without putting them on the spot. Simple approaches like asking each person in turn to express their point of view or dividing people up into smaller groups highlighted how people can get more involved. The training demonstrated the crucial skill of asking questions which helps to get the other person to think in a new way about an old problem.

Another technique showed how it is possible to avoid arguments about what people in a group want to do, by using sticky dots to help people make choices in a relaxed and fun way. Everyone is given a sticky dot and places it on their choice. You don't really even need a formal meeting to do this; you can just do it during an informal gathering. For example, one of the course participants, Roy Simmonds is organising a trip to Cadbury World later in the year for the over 50s lunch club based at the Clockhouse and intends to use this approach to sort out a particular practical problem: "I am going to use the sticky dot method to find out which meal people want to have when they get there"

A range of skills, techniques and approaches were used in the training to discuss real life issues on the Leys such as improving community facilities, vandalism, drugs and alcohol and parenting pressures. Participants looked at how and where decisions are made and whether they had any influence over the people who make them, and found that there are ways to do this. One session turned into a bit of live lobbying when a policewoman was invited into the group on the spur of the moment to discuss policing on the Leys.

Each discussion about issues would result in an action plan. "It's a fascinating process," said community worker Enid Foster, who found the action planning technique a very useful tool to explore ideas for a local market, which is being discussed on the Leys. The course participants will be working together on a stall at the Leys Fair, where they will adapt some of the skills they have learnt to get feedback from the community about this idea.

The participants on the training have found it has given them new skills: "The sessions I thought were brilliant; all of them…since I started this course, I have found it has given me more confidence to talk to groups" said Roy Simmonds. For some members of the group, the approach was totally new. Annette Powell commented "I have never EVER seen or

heard of anything like this before"

The members of the training group are now all completing a record of what they have achieved on the course to submit to the Open College Network for course accreditation and certificates.

There are already calls for another course in the autumn. The theme of the next training course will be building confidence to get involved in your community. What builds your confidence and how? What takes it away? We will be exchanging ideas and exploring how to use *"participatory action and learning"* skills to plan ways to increase our confidence.

The training is aimed at people involved in community activity, but you don't have to be a community activist to take advantage of it. However, if you think that the approach could offer you something useful, which you could use in your personal or family life, then contact us.

Taster session for next course
participatory action and learning
11-2.30pm
Tuesday 15 October at the Barn
Contact Phil Powell at Leys Linx on 396392 or Pippa Bobbett (course tutor) on 777297.

What's going on at the Leys Linx Centre?

formerly known as the Shopfront

The Credit Union

has its home at the Leys Linx Centre and offers a local savings scheme as well as low cost loans to people who have been saving regularly for over a period of either 13 weeks, seven fortnights or four months.

For more information call in on Mondays 10-11.30 am, Tuesday 7-7.30pm and Saturdays 10.30-11.30am or ring 402070.

The Information, Advice and Guidance Partnership

IAG for short, offers information and guidance on learning opportunities, training and work. Working with the Oxfordshire County Council's Newstart Guidance Service, IAG will be running a number of training fairs at the Leys Linx Centre targeting specific groups like women returners or focussing on labour market sectors where there are particular skills shortages.
For more information, or to book an appointment call Melodie Pedley on 402069 between 12.30pm and 4pm on Tuesday afternoons or phone 01869 253886.

Seeking funding?

Looking for funds for your community organisation or project? Then look no further. We have Funder Finder software on computer at the Leys Linx centre for anyone wanting to raise funds. The Funder Finder will help you match your project up with a possible source of funding.

And don't forget about BLITZ, the new computers for people project based at the Leys Linx centre which is now fully staffed and up and running. Contact Rick Russell or Sasha Vanderhyde on 07736 462312 for more details.

Public art ideas

There have been three meetings to date where ideas for public art at the Leys Linx centre are coming forth. At the August meeting the idea of a canopy outside centre emerged made up of mild steel parasols joined together with coloured glass. This could form an open air theatre space, where plays, music events, or even a local market could be held. In the short term it has been decided to paint a mural on the front of the Leys Linx centre building, with the space broken down into jigsaw type blocks,and painted by local people.

The next meeting of the community arts group will be on Wednesday 30 October at the Leys Linx Centre. Contact Enid Foster on 402070.

Blackbird Leys Advice Centre

offers a wide range of advice on benefits, managing debt and housing related issues. What you may not know is that you can book an appointment with the Advice Centre's outreach worker Judy Gay at the Leys Linx Centre on Monday afternoons, via the Advice Centre's main office on 770206. Talks are also being held with Oxford Housing Rights about setting up regular sessions at the Leys Linx centre.

Mediation

Problems with neighbours? Want someone to talk to help you find a solution? Then these are the people to talk to. Mediation Oxfordshire will be running a drop in session in September at the Leys Linx Centre. Mediation Oxfordshire not only helps with neighbour disputes but they can also mediate on your behalf with businesses to try to solve disputes. Contact Enid on 402070.

Tackling drugs problems

A new project is due to start in the autumn which aims to connect the local community to work with key service providers and agencies to look at issues around drugs. Leys Linx and Brookes University will be working together on this project. Further information on 396392.

Community Get Together
'communication'
Tuesday 17 September
9.30-1pm
Jubilee '77 Community Centre
(lunch provided)
Contact Phil on 396392

LOCAL VOLUNTEER GET TOGETHER
Wednesday 16 October
5.30-7.30pm Leys Linx centre
food, childcare available
Ring Enid on 402070

Leys Neighbourhood Nursery

coming soon...

There was an opportunity at both Playday and the Multicultural Day in August to see architects plans for a new 61 place Neighbourhood Nursery that is to be developed on the Leys in 2003. It will be run by the Oxford, Swindon and Gloucester Co-operative Society (OSG) and will be supported by the Department of Education and Skills and the New Opportunities fund, through the Oxfordshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership. It will provide affordable, flexible, quality childcare to support working parents and carers who wish to return to employment. Parents in receipt of Working Families Tax Credit will be able to receive substantial credit of up to 70% of the cost of registered childcare. If you want more information about the nursery please contact Carol Jenkins at OSG on 249241. If you would like to get involved as a parent or carer in the management and development of the nursery please phone Phil Powell at Leys Linx on 396392.

Childcare training opportunities Working together with Leys Linx, EASOCEC will be running a number of new locally based child-care training courses from September onwards. The 18 month Diploma in Pre-School Practice (DPP) accredited at level 3 will start in early October followed by further courses from January 2003. For more information on the DPP course which has a pre-course meeting on Thursday 19 September at the Clockhouse 10-12 and future childcare courses, please contact Pam Coleman at EASOCEC on 712094.

Leys Linx is supported by the Government's Single Regeneration Budget

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Your elected representatives

Member of Parliament
Andrew Smith - 4 Flaxfield Rd Oxford OX4 6QD - 772893
surgeries first Friday each month at
Barton Neighbourhood Centre 3-3.45
Princes St 4.15-5.30
Rose Hill Community Centre 6-7
Third Friday each month a rolling surgery around the constituency, including Blackbird Leys.
Call for precise times and locations.

City councillors

Blackbird Leys ward

Cllr Val Smith - *Labour*
4 Flaxfield Rd Oxford OX4 6QD
772893 mobile 07767 446051

Cllr Pat Stannard - *Labour*
31 Green Hill OX4 7UD - 777433

Northfield Brook ward

Cllr Molly Florey - *Labour*
122 Sandy Lane Oxford OX4 6AS
712620

Cllr Stuart Craft - IWCA
Independent Working Class Association
07733 274324
stuart@bliwca.fsnet.co.uk

County councillor
Blackbird Leys ward
Cllr Barbara Gatehouse -
33 Salford Rd Oxford OX3 ORY
240424

County councillors surgeries dates are advertised in local press.

Councillors surgeries
11-12 Saturdays at the Leisure Centre

14th September	Pat Stannard
21st September	Molly Florey & Stuart Craft
28th September	Val Smith
5th October	Pat Stannard
12th October	Molly Florey
19th October	Val Smith
26th October	Pat Stannard
2nd November	Molly Florey
9th November	Val Smith
16th November	Pat Stannard
23rd November	Molly Florey
30th November	Val Smith

Pat Stannard and Val Smith will also be doing street surgeries in Blackbird Leys Ward - Streets will be distributed in advance with a leaflet to display if they want to see the Councillors.
Molly Florey will also be doing some street surgeries in Northfield Brook ward.

IWCA surgeries
Subsequent dates to be confirmed. Anyone wanting to be kept up to date on IWCA social events phone 07733 274 324 to join the mailing list.

IWCA xmas shopping trip to Calais Saturday 30 November. £23 per head. Contact above to find out more.

Local area committee Iffley Leys

Meets first Monday evening of each month at various venues. Contact any of the city councillors for details. All welcome to attend.

Parish council news

Blackbird Leys Parish Council has recently adopted a new system for supporting the community, which is already proving to be highly successful. Each parish councillor is now wholly responsible for a portfolio of key community issues, which provides individual focus and consistent action and pressure.

We have also introduced a central messaging service, so all concerns and requests for support can be communicated to the Council by calling 01865 734346, Monday to Friday (office hours) or after hours for voice mail facilities. Your calls will be dealt with promptly and passed to the correct parish councillor for immediate investigation or action.

In addition, Brian Lester is developing a website for the Council, which will be publicised in future issues of ***Leys News.***

Meetings are now held monthly at the Leys Linx Centre (formerly Shopfront) on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. We would like to encourage you to attend, so together we can continue to improve the facilities, services and environment throughout the Leys.

Regular meetings

Monday
10.30 - 3.30 Drop in club - Clockhouse
10.30 - 12.30 PEEP - Clockhouse
1 - 2.45 PEEP - Dovecote
3.15 - 4.45 After school club - Dovecote

Tuesday
9 - 1 Family Nurturing Network - Clockhouse
1 - 3 PEEP - Clockhouse
3.15 - 4.45 After school club - Dovecote
6 - 7pm Karate - Barn
8 - 9pm Self defence - Barn
7.45 - 9.45pm AA - Clockhouse

Wednesday
9 - 11 PEEP - Dovecote
11 - 2.45 New Ol Leys lunch club - Dovecote
3.15 - 4.45 After school club Dovecote
7 - 9pm Youth club - Barn

Thursday
9 - 1 Carer and toddler group - Dovecote
9.30 - 3.30 Shaw Trust lunch club - Barn
10.30 -12.30 & 1-3 PEEP - Clockhouse
1 - 2.45 PEEP - Dovecote
3.15 - 4.45 After school club - Dovecote
7 - 8 Weight watchers - Barn

Friday
10.30 - 11.30 New parents (Homestart) - Dovecote
6 - 9pm Self defence - Barn

Saturday
10 - 11 Karate - Barn

Monday to Friday
Age resource desk - Clockhouse

USEFUL NUMBERS

Services

Abandoned vehicles If on public land call 252942

Bulk rubbish collection 725912

Dialability (Disability helpline)791818

Dog nuisance - call the dog warden on 252914. Out of hours 240924.

Fridges/freezers free collection 252936

Garden refuse Green waste sacks 50p each. Call 725912. Better still compost your own.

Junk mail - to stop receiving unsolicited mail write to FREEPOST 22, London W1E. free service

Noise pollution 252556

Pavement hazards (eg uneven surfaces) 747390

Pest control 252384

Pollution in streams and rivers call 0800 807060

Street lighting to report faulty lights call freephone 0800 317802

Syringe collection 249811

Trading standards 815000

Local organisations

Accan African-Caribbean Community Action Network Games hall Collins St 0778 6266146

Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground 747704

Blackbird Leys Advice Centre 770206

Blackbird Leys Community Centre bookings 435954 Centre manager 401098

Blackbird Leys Library 770403

Credit Union 773098

First Blackbird Leys Rainbow Guides 396553

Leys Linx (SRB5) 396392

Leys Residents Association Open to all residents in the new part of Blackbird Leys. Contact via 26 Kingfisher Green 749876. Monthly meetings second Tuesday each month at the Clockhouse.

Oxford Community Mediation 742439

Parish Council 734346

Education

Able adult basic skills centre 776334

Community Education East and South Oxford 712094

Oxford College FE Leys campus 245871

Sports

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre 467020

Blackbird Leys swimming pool 467040

Peers Sports Centre 467095

Health

Doctors surgery 778244

Blackbird Leys Health Centre 778244

Health visitors 715689

Youth &Under 8's

Blackbird Leys Youth Centre 772886

Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre 773263

Dovecote Under 8's building 712299

Homestart (home visiting scheme for under 5's) 779991

The PEEP Centre (Peers Early Education Partnership) 395145

Housing

Ealing Family Housing Association Elaine Partridge/Rhiannon Jones 712244 FAX 712121 The Farmhouse opening times Mon - Fri 9 - 1 and 2 - 5 except Fri 2 - 4

Northcote Housing Association 712244

Oxford Citizens Housing Association Mark Kimber/Debbie Meade The Farmhouse 714509. FAX 717404 Repairs and head office 773000

Cherwell Housing Trust - Customer Services 260555

City Homes local office 3 Cuddesdon Way open all day Mon - Thurs 9 to 5 Fri 9 to 4.30 467222 Daytime service 7.30 -6.30pm Mon - Thurs. 6pm Fridays

Anchor Staying Put and small repairs - new contact info Oxford City Ramsay House 10 St Ebbes Street . Oxford OX1 1 PT 252242

Oxford Housing Rights free and confidential advice 247853

Police

Police drop in surgery at the Clockhouse every Wednesday 2 - 4 pm Community beat officers PS Steve Redding, Pc's Claire Hoddinott, Sandra Terry, Clayton Robinson, Bryan Kearney and Spencer Treherne.

Police Customer Services To report incidents that do not need police attendance call 266333

Oxford Control Room To report crime that requires the police 266000

Cowley Police Station 749909

Family Protection Unit 335200

Crimestoppers freephone 0800 555111

Fire

Oxfordshire Fire Service Helpline 719900

For more details of local groups and meetings pick up the Leys Community Handbook from the Farmhouse or the Shopfront.

Council services on your doorstep

Blackbird Leys Housing Office, at 3 Cuddesdon Way can now deal with any council enquiry. Customer service officers now run the reception service at Blackbird Leys office which will be officially launched later this year as a local services shop, but don't let that stop you from accessing these services now.
If you live locally you can use these services which include

helping local people claim benefits

dealing with council tax enquiries

providing information about the council's housing register

providing information about all other public and council services

housing enquiries for Oxford City Council tenants

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

and much more so please come and visit us.

Other local services shops in Oxford
St Aldate's, 109-113 St Aldate's
East Oxford, 174d Cowley Road *(entrance in Bullingdon Rd)*
Northway, Dora Carr Close, Maltfield Road,
Summertown, 267 Banbury Road *
Open times for all the above and local housing offices (except Wood Farm): 9 - 5 Monday -Thursday (4.30 Friday). Staff training on the last Thursday of the month, open at 10am.

**Please ring Summertown on 467301 to check for short lunch time closure for 30 minutes each day anytime between 12 and 2pm..*

Oxford City Council tenants useful numbers

0800 227676 (freephone) repairs

467222 Estate management team for general housing and garage enquiries other than home rent, allocations and repairs. The housing staff are still based at Blackbird Leys office.

467200 rents team for rent issues.

467230 allocations team for transfer enquiries, offers of council home, finding a mutual exchange, or for general re-housing advice, registering for social housing and nominations to housing associations.

Leys News

Summer sporting action on the Leys

Keen young sports people had the opportunity to try no less than 12 sports during the six weeks of the school holidays with activities including swimming, canoeing, martial arts and team sports at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre, Blackbird Leys Pool and the newly opened Fry's Hill Park.
Many of the activities were run by local sports clubs, who all provided qualified coaches, to help young people learn more about their favourite sports and try out some new ones. The clubs now hope that some of the young people who took part will join in with their regular activities.

More activities will be available during half term. For details of what sports will be available contact Active Communities manager Nik Earl on 401000.

Quick cricket

Blackbird Leys Community Centre
CMS Bar
is proud to present
the inflatables
This amazing five piece are going to get you bouncing around all night long with their high energy set of Ska, Reggae and Northern Soul. With hits from the likes of UB40 and Dexy's Midnight Runners, it would be absolute Madness to miss this - and extremely Bad Manners. Don't watch that, watch this!
supported by Oxford Dj Barry Twin-B
Saturday 19 October
from 8pm
tickets
£7 members
£12 non members

CMS BAR
call 777162 for further information

Sports takes off on Fry's Hill

CLIMBING THE FRAME: footballers at Fry's Hill, from left Lewis Davis, Roger Johnson, Kane Byrne (top), Carl Davis, Mason Shirley, Anthony Shirley, Jamie McMahon and Rob Wilkinson (coach from Sports Development).

Goalie Dax at Fry's Hill

Fry's Hill street sports are finally up and running. Basketball, football and street hockey sessions have been running every week during the summer holidays. Eight to eighteen year olds have been attending free sessions at the new park, close by the Kassam stadium. The skater hockey has been particularly popular with up to 40 young people turning up. A team from Fry's Hill has recently taken part in a city wide competition.

Coach Aldie Chalmers, who works with the Oxford Blues skater hockey team, said "It's been brilliant at Fry's Hill. The response has been terrific, young people have really taken to this sport."
The sessions have been run by Oxford City Council's sports development team who use trained and experienced coaches in all their sessions.
Look out for future activities over half tems and holidays and there are a plans to set up some after school activities at the park. Call Sports Development on 0800 0521455

EN MASSE: Fry's Hill skaters